

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03230 101932Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 NEA-11 SAB-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 COM-02  
/114 W

-----062884 110525Z /10

R 101710Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3230  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PORG, PINR, PN  
SUBJECT: THE THIRD WORLD IN THE POST-TREATY PERIOD:  
POLISARIO IN PANAMA

REF: 1. PANAMA 3097, 2. PANAMA 3043

1. REFTELS REPORTED THAT A DELEGATION OF THE POLISARIO FRONT VISITED PANAMA APRIL 30 - MAY 5. THE EXPRESSED PURPOSE OF THE STAY WAS TO ENLIST THE GOP'S SUPPORT FOR THE FRONT'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA. THE GROUP MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOP OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GENERAL TORRIJOS AND FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA, PRIVATE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRESS.

2. IN A PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 5, THE DELEGATION EXPRESSED ITS CONVICTION THAT THE GOP WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE FRONT'S STRUGGLE. HOWEVER, GOP COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN GUARDED AND AMBIGUOUS, STATING THAT THE CONVERSATIONS PROVIDED USEFUL INFORMATION UPON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BASE FUTURE DECISIONS VIS-A-VIS THE FRONT. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT PANAMA HAS AS YET  
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 03230 101932Z

DECIDED TO COME OUT WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN SUPPORT OF THE FRONT.

3. OBSERVERS HERE HAVE LONG WONDERED WHAT COURSE PANAMA WOULD TAKE IN THE THIRD WORLD--PARTICULARLY ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT--ONCE THE CANAL TREATY WAS OUT OF THE WAY. THE IMPERATIVE OF KEEPING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

HAPPY WILL SOON DISPEAR, AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT TORRIJOS WILL ADOPT A MORE AGGRESSIVE AND DEMAGOGIC POSTURE INTERNATIONALLY TO COUNTER-BALANCE A NECESSARILY CONSERVATIVE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICY AND TO CALM HIS OWN RADICALS. ON THE OTHER HAND THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY, THOUGH SMALL, HAS A GOOD DEAL OF INFLUENCE; TORRIJOS HAS USUALLY BEEN WELL DISPOSED TOWARD IT. CERTAINLY ITS ECONOMIC SUPPORT IS NEEDED. AND ISRAEL ITSELF HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING TO PANAMA WITH BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. FURTHERMORE, HAVING LESS NEED FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT AGAINST THE U.S. ON ITS "GREAT ISSUE", PANAMA WILL NOT NEED TO COURT THE FAVOR OF ARAB AND OTHER THIRD WORLD RADICALS.

4. THE VISIT OF THE POLISAIRO GROUP MAY HAVE GIVEN US A GLIMPSE OF AN INCIPIENT POLICY OF REFURBISHING TIES WITHIN THE THIRD WORLD. IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE POLISARIO GROUP WAS BEING GIVEN THE RED-CARPET TREATMENT ON THE ONE HAND, PRESIDENT LAKAS WAS ATTENDING A FETE CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE.

5. OUR GUESS IS THAT PANAMA WILL NOW HAVE LESS INTEREST IN THIRD WORLD QUESTIONS. TORRIJOS WILL CONTINUE TO GET A KICK OUT OF RUBBING ELBOWS WITH THE HIGH MUCKY-MUCKS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND WILL BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 03230 101932Z

FLATTERY. ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY HAVE A SOMEWHAT TOUGHER TIME INFLUENCING PANAMA, BUT WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT PANAMA WILL JOIN COMPLETELY WITH THE RADICALS ON THIS AND OTHER THIRD WORLD QUESTIONS.  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, NONALIGNED NATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** THE THIRD WORLD IN THE POST-TREATY PERIOD: POLISARIO IN PANAMA  
**TAGS:** PORG, PINR, PDEV, PN, XA, POLISARIO  
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